

25p

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WIGAN ATHLETIC

SPRINGFIELD SCENE



Saturday, 6th December, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- SCUNTHORPE UNITED

Today's match is sponsored by Russ Rigby Motor Company



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MY POINT OF VIEW

Good afternoon all.
A warm welcome is extended to Ron Ashman and his Scunthorpe United side. At the present time the "Ironsiders" are enjoying a fairly

successful spell, having lost only one of their last four matches. Their victory over Hartlepool United in the F.A. Cup was one of their successes and they now met Altrincham for the right to meet the big guns.

Successful December.

I am hoping that we can really start our run today and have a really good month before the turn of the year. The Fourth Division is definitely wide-open, and, if any side can string together four or five runs, it is well in the hunt. It is of paramount importance for us to start picking up points, if we are to be there at the death.

Encouraging Spirit

One of the most satisfying things about running a football side, and building a successful club, is getting and maintaining the right spirit. Sometimes this is very difficult to achieve when results are not coming, but, when everything is rosy, there are no problems. I honestly believe that the players we have at Springfield Park are, like we all are, desperate for success, and I have every confidence in their ability to bring success to our club.

Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill

Ian McNeill

Front page photo — "Goal of the season to date — Peter Houghton's equaliser against Chesterfield at Springfield Park". (Photograph by courtesy of Wigan Observer.)

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GREAT NAMES FROM THE PAST

BY HAROLD ASHURST

THE MANAGER of that famous Latics team of the early 1950's was the legendary Ted Goodier, and he got together the renowned side (named in the last programme) that put Latics on the map as far as cup-fighting was concerned. One of the most vital departments of the team was the half-back line — the teams lined up 2-3-5- in those days — and even today, so long after that famous team broke up, the Latics half-back line of Lynn, Mycock, and Banks still has that magic ring to it.

At right half-back was Sammy Lynn, a well known player signed from Manchester United by the shrewd Goodier in 1953. Although he was

about 33 when he came to Springfield Park, there is no doubt that his wealth of experience was invaluable to the side. A skillful player, Sammy was never renowned for his hardness, but throughout the two seasons he played with the Latics, he was a marvellous favourite with the crowd. After leaving Springfield Park, Sammy Lynn retired from football altogether and now runs a business in the Manchester area.

Centre-half Dave Mycock is rated by many of the older Latics fans as the best centre-half ever to wear club colours. He played most of his career in the Third Division (North) with Bradford and Halifax before Goodier signed him from Halifax Town, again in 1953. A solid, commanding figure, Dave Mycock was a folk-hero to the Wigan fans of that era, and, even today, when he comes to Springfield Park, as he does from time to time, many of the supporters go out of their way to pass the time of day with him. He is nowadays involved with a travel business in the Leeds area.

Last, but certainly not least, of that famous trio, was left half-back Kenny Banks. Little more can be said that hasn't been said so many times over about the current Wigan Athletic first-team trainer, who has been with the club for more than 25 years. Ken joined the Latics in 1953 from Southport, finally bringing to Springfield Park the local lad who had opted for a professional career at Haig Avenue. As a sound, but seldom spectacular player, Ken complimented the talents of Lynn and Mycock, playing a key role in that famous half-back line. Apart from a very brief spell with Wigan Rovers, Kenny has been with Latics since 1953, and has held almost every position on the playing side of the club from player to caretaker-manager.

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by Fred Eyre

When a club has two such dependable and experienced goalkeepers as John Brown and Bob Ward, being third in line can at times be a soul-destroying job. Whilst this is not a situation he actually enjoys, Alan Harrison accepts it with the correct attitude and puts in maximum effort in training, knowing that one day his chance will come. Not many goalkeepers are overnight wonders and usually they don't come into their own until

later in life, serving a much longer apprenticeship than outfield players.

He has, of course, in the three seasons he has been at Wigan, played in many games when either John or Bob have been injured, and has invariably done well. Last season, in the friendly match against American team Tulsa Roughnecks, Alan did in fact play for the first team, coming on as a half time substitute for John Brown.

Alan is the academic in our team and lives at Haydock. When not on duty for us, I loan him out to clubs with goalkeeping troubles, thus helping them, yet also giving Alan more experience as he makes his way in the game.

The improvements in his game have never been illustrated more fully than in this week's friendly game at Springfield Park against Chorley. His handling was superb, his positional play first-class, and his bravery outstanding. We used this game to give some of our Youth Team players a run with the Reserves and they came through it well in a 3-0 victory with goals coming from Tony Quinn, Billy Urquhart and Mark Wignall.

J-BAILEY & SON

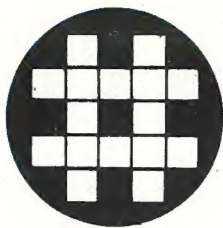
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PASTIME-FUNTIME



ON THE BALL No. 15

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.

Ninety-minutes' worth, --- Griffiths, Derwalls, predecessor, Birtles, maybe



© MIKE TURNER CARTOONS

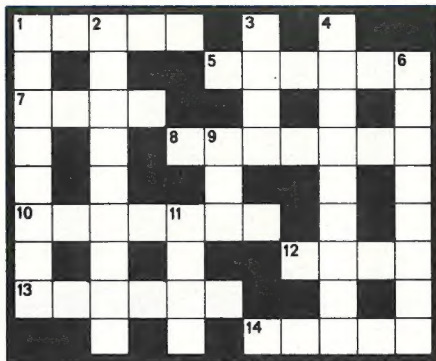
CLUB CLUE No. 15

Solve this cryptic club to identify a soccer side:

The noise is all around.

MIXED DOUBLES No. 15

Rearrange the letters in each of the words **HOSTS** and **LAGOS** two related soccer words.



SOCCER NINETY-NINER

No. 15 (compiled by David Peck)

ACROSS

1. First name of the managers at 14ac immediately before and after Stein (5)
5. They went out when Wolves (who also went out) entertained Eindhoven in this season's U.E.F.A. Cup (6)
7. York's leading scorer last season, Terry Eccles, both wore and scored this number (4)
8. The club 1 dn began his League career with (7)
10. & 12. What Castilla (beaten by West Ham in this season's Cup Winners' Cup) are to Real Madrid (7,4)
13. Midfielder Alan --- made over 400 League appearances for PNE during the 1960s and 1970s (6)
14. Club that Herbert Chapman managed and Wilf Copping played for (5)

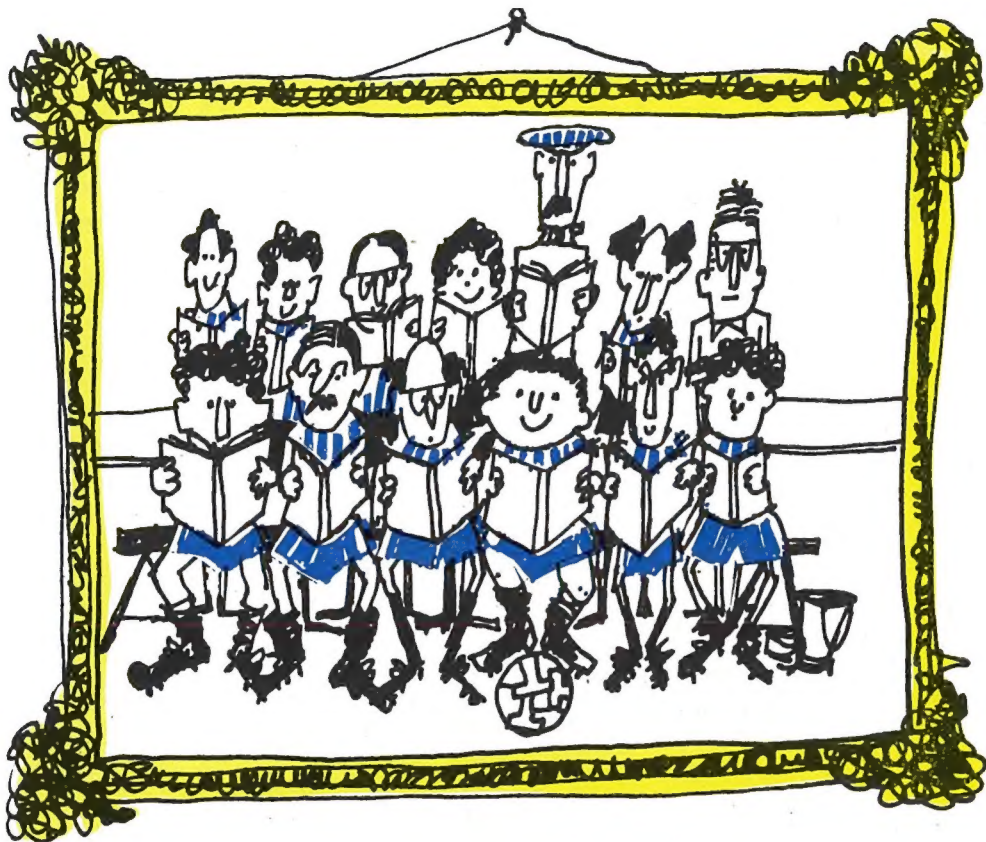
DOWN

1. Orient signed him from West Ham a week before last season started and he finished as joint top-scorer (8)
2. The sort of marking presumably not possible in ladies' soccer! (3-3-3)
3. Dennis Law always raised his in salute when he scored (4)
4. 'So do we hit?' (anagram) — Not if we do this! (5,4)
6. Nickname of the club which spent over half of last season at the top of Division Four but finally came second (8)
9. "The Honest Men" (3)
11. --- Steel joined a from Brighton (4)



1980/81 series
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Answers on Page 22.



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PHOTOFILE



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Left:
"Flying Scotsmen Dave McMullan and Billy Urquhart launch a joint assault on the Chesterfield goal".

Photograph by courtesy of Wigan Observer

Top Right:
"Goal-mouth action from the replayed F.A. Cup game at Chesterfield"

Photograph by courtesy of Wigan Observer

Centre & Bottom Right:
"Two near misses for Wigan Athletic's Bobby Hutchinson, in action against Chesterfield in the F.A. Cup"

Photograph by courtesy of Wigan Observer



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NO DOUBT many of my readers today will have been aware that during the past three weeks the Media have been giving lotteries, and the operation of lotteries, a fair old bashing either in the Press or on Television. Obviously, adverse exposure does not exactly help those organisations whose responsibility it is to operate fund-raising activities, but we, at Wigan Athletic, have at least been able to go about our business knowing full well that the tickets which we sell have been thoroughly tested for security, and have had great personal satisfaction in telling our agents and prospective clients that the lotteries we operate are conducted in a proper manner with the interests of agent and purchaser alike fully protected. Indeed, our printers have actually written to us, guaranteeing their products, thus enabling us to sit back comfortably in the knowledge that, as far as Wigan Athletic goes, there is no case to answer. Furthermore, should any of our agents or clients wish to come along to Springfield Park, I am fully prepared to outline to them the ways in which our tickets are put together, the printers' efforts to meet the high standards on which we insist, and the day-to-day operation of our lottery activities. However, please do me the courtesy of contacting my office beforehand, to ensure that I am able to give sufficient time to your inquiry. The message then for all our supporters to pass around Wigan and District is "buy with confidence from Wigan Athletic".

While we are on the subject of lotteries, I would like to appeal, to any supporter who can lend a hand, to call in at our office today and pick up one book of 50 Christmas Draw tickets. Our couriers, Carol, Christine and Deirdre have done a magnificent job in recruiting well over 100 prizes for the Draw from local businesses and friends of the club. Don't let these good people down! Remember that every pound

raised goes towards financing the new Springfield Park Community Sports Facility. With just over ten days until the draw actually takes place, we are really going to have to put our skates on to benefit to the full from this extra activity.

We are delighted to acknowledge the sponsoring of today's games by Russ Rigby Motor Company, of Leigh Road, Hindley Green, Telephone No. 55836. This company, controlled by an old friend and most enthusiastic supporter, Mr. Russ Rigby, is one of the better known names in the Wigan area for quality used cars. A Russ Rigby written warranty and the back up of their own workshops guarantee absolute customer satisfaction. A special Russ Rigby Christmas offer currently gives a portable colour television absolutely free with every car sold valued over £700. When buying a used car, play safe, look for the RR sign of quality.

Today's match ball has been kindly donated by another old friend of the club — Muffin Man. Bakers and Confectioners, of 103 Park Road, Wigan. Telephone No. Wigan 43350. The Kennedy family often attend to the needs of the Football Club in their own inimitable and efficient manner. Please support both these local businesses who have so often themselves supported the Wigan Athletic Football Club.

Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth, Commercial Manager.



Springfield Park, Wigan. 4th December, 1980.

Dear Readers,

Surprisingly enough my letterbox has been fairly empty of late. I had thought there would have been several items raised in connection with past F.A. Cup exploits, but perhaps it is a sign of the times that we have been receiving an increasing number of comments about the expense of supporting one's team in these hard times. The Chairman has often stated how much the club values its loyal support, and we are all aware that it is getting more and more difficult for the family man or woman to raise what can be quite a substantial sum of money to follow the team away from home.

Young Kathryn Jones and Trudy Carney have their own ideas on the subject as can be observed from their letter, but, unfortunately, we have no say over the fares decided upon by local coach operators. However, from past experience, we have always found that our supporters have received a very fair deal. Attempts to introduce a Travel Club have gained little support. Two free tickets then for the two girls, and please keep the letters rolling in.

All best wishes,

Jack Sudworth, Commercial Manager.

6 Egerton Street, Abram, Nr. Wigan, WN2 5RW.

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you regarding the cost of travelling expenses to Latics away games. We are two ardent fans who have attended all but two away matches this season, and so, whilst at other grounds, we notice that, when coach fares are announced, they always seem to be reasonably priced compared to those in Wigan. Obviously not everyone can afford for example £10 to travel to Torquay as a lump sum out of one wage. So therefore, it may be a good idea, if not to reduce the fares, to have perhaps a monthly ticket at a fixed price so that short journeys could balance the expense of the long ones. We are sure that this would increase the already substantial following away from home.

Good luck for the rest of the season.

Yours faithfully,

Kathryn Jones and Trudy Carney.

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OUR VISITORS



SCUNTHORPE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB — 1980-1981 (Left to Right) **Back Row:** Billy Burnside, Steve Davy, Phil Ashworth, Chris Cowling, Anton Lambert, Chris Gaffney, Steve Kearsley, John Hindson. **Middle Row:** Charlie Strong (Physiotherapist) Steve Cammack, Rick Green, David Dall, Jim Gordon, Joe Neenan, Paul Johnson, Alan Boxall, Malcolm Partridge, John McDonald, Nigel Jackson (Youth Team Coach). **Front Row:** Ron Ashman (Manager), Paul O'Berg, Nick Jarvis, Stuart Pilling, Vince Grimes, Bob Oates, Graham Pugh, David Stewart, John Kaye (Coach.)

IF PAST results are anything to go by, Wigan Athletic should be able to go into today's game absolutely brimming over with confidence. As our readers will observe from reference to the inset panel, since joining the Football League, Wigan Athletic has played today's visitors, Scunthorpe United, on four occasions and have been victorious on every occasion. After two extremely dour struggles in season 1978-1979, Wigan Athletic enjoyed two far more clear-cut successes last season.

Football, however, is a very funny game, and with both Scunthorpe United and Wigan Athletic anxious to pull away from the lower reaches of the League, today's encounter is likely to be fiercely contested. The two points at stake could well give either club a little breathing space as they reach the half-way point in their league programme. For Wigan Athletic, the season holds no more prospects of F.A. Cup glory, whereas "The Irons", following their success over Hartlepool United, now entertain our old rivals of non-league days, Altrincham, next Saturday, with every prospect of a money-spinning Third Round draw against one of the big guns of Soccer as the prize for success. A good result at Wigan today should guarantee that the

Old Show Ground will house an excellent "gate" on the 13th December.

Whether director, management, staff or supporter, we wish our visitors from Scunthorpe United a very warm welcome to Springfield Park today and a safe journey home after the match. We look forward to our return visit to Scunthorpe, where we have always been well received in the past, on Saturday, 2nd May, 1981.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE RESULTS

Season 1978-1979

20th Sept. 1978	Wigan Ath. 1 Sc'thorpe Utd. 0 H.T. Score 0-0 Att. 4,459 Scorers: Wigan Ath. Brownbill Scunthorpe Utd. -
1st May, 1979	Sc'thorpe Utd. 0 Wigan Ath. 1 H.T. Score 0-0 Att. 1,582 Scorers: Sc'thorpe Utd. - Wigan Ath. Gore

SEASON 1979-1980

17th Nov. 1979	Wigan Ath. 4 Sc'thorpe Utd. 1 H.T. Score 3-0 Att. 4,618 Scorers: Wigan Ath. Gore, Hinnigan, G. Urquhart, A. Quinn.
29th Mar. 1980	Sc'thorpe Utd. Partridge Sc'thorpe Utd. 1 Wigan Ath. 3 H.T. Score 1-2 Att. 2,140 Scorers: Sc'thorpe Utd. Cammack Wigan Ath. Gore, Shearer (2)

PEN PICTURE

JIM GORDON — Goalkeeper with the Club. Did v. when taking over from **JOE NEENAN** — Goalkeeper from York City in



Crawford last season though United have keeper out of the deal **STEVE DAVY** — Right back 5'8½" Wt. 10st.2lb. Fourth season with the likes to attack, improve season.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED

Ground: Old Show Ground, Scunthorpe
Year Formed: 1904

Football League Record:
1950 Elected to Division Three (North)
1958-1964 Member of Second Division
1964-1968 Member of Third Division
1968-1972 Member of Fourth Division
1972-1973 Member of Third Division
1973-1980 Member of Fourth Division.



RES

Goalkeeper — Ht. 5'11"
Stretford. Third term
very well last season
m G. Crawford.
Goalkeeper — Ht. 6'3"
Manchester. Signed
exchange for G.



n and it looks as
a very good young

ht Full Back — Ht.
Born: Norwich.
ne Club. Quick and
oved all round last

STUART PILLING — Full Back — Ht. 5'9" Wt. 10st. 2lb. Born: Sheffield. Good left sided player, covering all positions on the left flank last season, scoring 10 goals. Good Club man. Joined United from Hull in 1972.

NICK JARVIS — Left Back — Ht. 5'9" Wt. 11st. Born: Mansfield. Signed from Grantham Town during close season, first attempt at League level and should do well. Good left foot.

DAVID DALL — Centre Back — Ht. 6'3" Wt. 12st. 7lb. Born: Scotland. Signed from Grantham last season and made the centre half position his own. Delighted home supporters with his strong play.

BOB OATES — Centre Back/Midfield — Ht. 5'11½" Wt. 11st. 7lb. Born: Leeds. Received the Mecca award for 200 appearances last season after five years with the Club. Strong player prefers to play centre back rather than midfield.

GRAHAM PUGH — Midfield — Ht. 5'7½" Wt. 11st. 3lb. Born: Hoole. Came to United from Barnsley, during 1980 and immediately helped to improve the Clubs playing record with his control and passing in midfield. Played at Wembley for Sheffield Wednesday in 1966.

VINCE GRIMES — Midfield — Ht. 5'9½" Wt. 11st. 10lb. Born: Scunthorpe. Third

season with United after playing for Hull City. Unfortunately missed all last season with achilles trouble. After an operation has made good recovery. Was certainly missed by his team mates.

ANTON LAMBERT — Midfield — Ht. 6' Wt. 11st. 7lb. Born: Nottingham. Signed from Long Eaton (Midland League) in July this year. Young player with a lot of potential.

MALCOLM PARTRIDGE — Midfield — Ht. 6'0½" Wt. 12st. Born: Calow. Voted player of the year last season and deservedly so. Played most of his games at centre forward and was leading goalscorer with 13 League goals.

PAUL O'BERG — Right Wing/Right Midfield — Ht. 5'5" Wt. 9st. 4lb. Born: Hull. Made a great impact in League football at the start of last season, but then ran into a series of injuries. Quick, eager player hoping for better luck this season.

STEVE CAMMACK — Striker — Ht. 5'10¼" Wt. 11st. 9lb. Born: Sheffield. Signed from Chesterfield last season. Good skills and vision. With more consistency could be playing at higher level of competition.

CHRIS COWLING — Centre Forward — Ht. 6'1½" Wt. 11st. Born: Scunthorpe. Only 18 and had 6 League appearances last season. Could be pushing hard for a regular spot this season. Tall and has lots of ability.

RICK GREEN — Centre Forward — Ht. 6'1½" Wt. 13st. 2lb. Born: Scunthorpe. United will be hoping that their costliest signing will keep free of back trouble after getting injured last season. Big and a strong runner, he is a handful for opponents on his day. Scored 9 goals last season.

DAVID STEWART — Left Wing — Ht. 5'9" Wt. 10st. 12lb. Born: Belfast. Only 21 and has had experience with Hull City and Chelsea, plus a Northern Ireland Cap. Very sharp with lots of ability. Lacks consistency in his game.

PHIL ASHWORTH — Utility — Ht. 6'0¼" Wt. 12st. 7lb. Signed on a "free transfer" during the close season. Can cover for striker or centre back positions. Previously with Portsmouth, Rochdale and Southport.

ALAN BOXALL — Centre Back — Ht. 6'2" Wt. 13st. Part-time player/teacher. Played for Barton Town in the Yorkshire League.

HUGH WOOD — Ht. 5'9" Wt. 11st. 6lbs. aged 20, signed from Grantham Town. To date, played as substitute only.





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WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

A VERY good afternoon and a very warm welcome from the Bar Staff, and the Club Committee to all Wigan supporters and also our visitors from Scunthorpe.

How about this for a result — Liverpool 0 Wigan Athletic 2. No, we have not been dreaming, for that score-line represents the two occasions that our own Supporters' Club Quiz Team has met and defeated, both home and away, their Liverpool counterparts. Well done, the Quiz Team!

I am pleased to take this opportunity of publishing our hours of opening and the artistes who are due to appear in the Supporters Club over the Christmas and New Year period.

OPENING HOURS

Christmas Eve - Opening at 7.00 pm until 11.30pm

Christmas Day - CLOSED ALL DAY

Boxing Day - Opening at 7.00pm until 12 midnight

New Years Eve - Opening at 7.00pm until 12.30pm

New Years Day - Opening at 7.00pm until 11.30pm

ARTISTES APPEARING

Christmas Eve - Ford

Boxing Day - Eddie Ryan

Saturday, 27th Dec. - Don Martin

Sunday, 28th Dec. - Liam Ford

New Years Eve - A-La-Mode

PLEASE NOTE, ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, ADMISSION WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY, AND ONLY ONE TICKET PER MEMBERSHIP BOOK IS ALLOWED TO BE PURCHASED. ON CHRISTMAS EVE, IT WILL BE MEMBERS ONLY UNTIL 8.30 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that on Monday, 15th December, the Senior Citizens Party will take place in the Supporters Club for the benefit of all our senior members. On Saturday, 20th December, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., we will be holding the Christmas Party for members' children.

Enjoy today's game.
J. A. Eckersley

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CLUB NEWS**



AMIDST the recession comes even more news of Division Four clubs finding it hard to make ends meet financially. Lincoln City, currently well placed for promotion to Division Three, lost more than £82,000 in the year ended last June.

Meanwhile, Bradford City, who came so close to going up last season, lost a mere £8,169 as compared with a loss of £51,594 the previous season. City incidentally, have signed 23-year old Scot John Black on a free transfer from Wolverhampton Wanderers. Black spent a short time on loan at Valley Parade last season, before returning to Molyneux.

It's all go at Halifax Town, where chairman John Crowther recently resigned to be replaced by Mr. John Goldthorpe. Halifax Town were recently involved in approach to the town's Rugby League side about the possibility of a merger. However, having made the initial approach, the Soccer club then rejected the idea. On the field "The Shaymen" are suffering through suspensions. Both Dave Harris and Paul Hendrie recently received three-match bans when they appeared before a disciplinary committee.

Port Vale's response to an injury to goalkeeper

Mark Harrison was to sign former Derby County and England Youth International Steve Cherry on a month's loan. He made his debut last weekend at Scunthorpe United.

York City found themselves without goalkeeper Eddie Blackburn for the away game at A.F.C. Bournemouth. But City boss Barry Lyons had no hesitation in bleeding sixteen-years old Mike Astbury who only left school in the summer.

Wimbledon swooped to sign Hillingdon Borough striker Frank Joseph for a fee of around £3,000.

Rochdale are the latest Soccer club to consider joining up with their Rugby League counterparts in a ground-sharing scheme. Successful preliminary talks were held recently and more will be held at a later date.

Mansfield Town's skipper Kevin Bird reached another milestone at Gresty Road, Crewe, last weekend, when he made his 350th appearance for the side.

Another man to pass a landmark on the same day was Wimbledon striker Alan Cork whose appearance for the Dons against Bury was his 150th.



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PLAYER

Michael Quinn

(Striker)

Birthplace: Liverpool

Place of Residence: Liverpool

Date of Birth: 2nd May, 1962

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 12st.0lbs.

Previous Professional Clubs:

Derby County (apprentice)

Advice to Youngsters: Train hard and always listen to advice from experienced people in the game.

Mike made his debut in League Football with Wigan Athletic against Halifax Town on Saturday, 12th April, 1980, scoring on his debut. To date, Mike has made 19 appearances and 3 substitute appearances at Football League level and has scored ten League goals. He had the joy of scoring his first hat-trick in League Football against Doncaster Rovers, at Wigan, on 8th October, 1980.



Photo by courtesy of The Wigan Reporter

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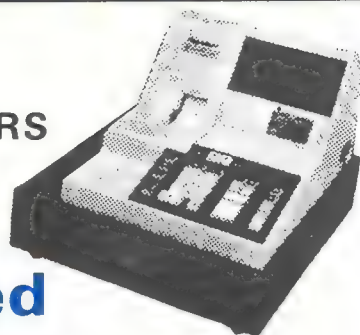
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SCENE & HEARD

FOR THE Commercial Department office staff each week, as you will have read in a recent article by Chris. Gill in the "Evening Post and Chronicle", brings letters from all over Europe and even further afield. Requests for pennants, flags, photographs, badges, autographs and club information are commonplace, but one letter received this week deserves a special mention, for it carries news of a faithful Wigan Athletic supporter, now living in Canada. Dr. Alan Porter, writing from the Pubnico Medical Centre, Pubnico, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada, informs us that his father, Mr. Peter Porter, who lived in Wigan for 74 years until emigrating to Canada to join his son in 1979, is still showing an interest in Wigan Athletic, even at a time when declining years have robbed him of much of his strength and health. Some information about scores and league positions filters through via the Canadian Press, but the Doctor has asked if we could possibly send his father greetings signed by members of the team, along with a photograph or some other little memento. It will

give us particular pleasure to meet the request, for it is a very poor club indeed that cannot spare a little thought for a supporter whose interest in that club over many, many years has been so loyal and unchanging. God bless the Porter family, in particular, this Christmas time.

Another request has been received, this time from Mr. G. Jenkins, of 79 Rydal Drive, Worksop, Notts. S81 7PY, who is anxious to acquire a metal lapel badge from Wigan Athletic's non-league days, or, for that matter, any other non-league enamel lapel badges. If you can help in any way, please contact Mr. Jenkins at the address given above.

Although keen supporters will probably have noted the fact in the local papers, we wish to draw the attention of our supporters to the re-arrangement for the Crewe Alexandra v Wigan Athletic game for Saturday, 13th December, 1980, kick-off 3.00 p.m. This game has been brought forward from Easter Monday, since both Crewe Alexandra and Wigan Athletic, following their elimination from the F.A. Cup, had a free date.

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LATICS AWAY

**SATURDAY,
13th DECEMBER, 1980
KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.**

Football League Division Four
CREWE ALEXANDRA

-v-

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Use M6 Motorway until junction 17, then follow signs to Crewe (A534). At the Crewe Roundabout follow Chester signs into Nantwich Road, then take the next turning on left into Gresty Road for Crewe Alexandra Football Club.

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The Chairman's Column

THE Chairman has kindly invited me to write today's article in his personal column, and I commence with extending a warm Wigan welcome to the Chairman, Directors, players and officials of the Scunthorpe United Football Club.

We are not due at Scunthorpe until May 2nd next year when I sincerely hope we have vastly improved our playing record and climbed well up the League table, for it is only success on the field that will retain the interest of our supporters and maintain our claim to be one of the best supported clubs in the Fourth Division. The Chairman and his colleagues on the Board, together with manager Ian McNeill, are watching the situation very closely, and with our unwavering zest for success, will take any steps thought necessary to achieve this aim.

An interesting and controversial topic at the moment is the question of red and yellow cards, and whether or not they should be retained or dispensed with from next season. The system was introduced several years ago primarily to assist in overcoming the language barrier, both in international matches and in games between clubs of different nationalities. Opinions are varied including those of referees, as to whether or not the system should be continued. One trend of thought is that the yellow card affords the referee an easier way of booking a player and at the same time possibility appeasing a section of the fans. How do you, the fans, view this system? Your comments could be interesting.

As today's game will be the last home game before the festive season, I would, on behalf of the Board of Directors, take this opportunity of wishing everyone in football, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Enjoy today's game and give the team your full support.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur Horrocks
President and Director.

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TEAMS

**Wigan
Athletic**
(Royal Blue
& White Stripes)

John Brown	1	Joe Neenan
Dave Fretwell	2	Steve Davy
Steve McAdam	3	Nick Jarvis
George Urquhart	4	Vince Grimes
Colin Methven	5	Alan Boxall
Alex Cribley	6	Bob Oates
Dave McMullan	7	Malcolm Partridge
Jeff Wright	8	Steve Cammack
Peter Houghton	9	David Stewart
Bobby Hutchinson	10	Rick Green
Frank Corrigan	11	Paul O'Berg
Mike Quinn	12	Hugh Wood

**Scunthorpe
United**
(All Red)

OFFICIALS

Referee:

MR. L.M. ROBINSON

(Sutton Coldfield)

Commenced refereeing in Durham before moving to the Birmingham area and to the Southern League and then Football League. Married, with two daughters. He is an Engineer Surveyor, Secretary of Birmingham and District Referees' Association, and is keen on golf, squash, swimming and sports in general.

Linesmen:

Red Flag

Mr. G. H. Rice

(Aintree)

Yellow Flag

Mr. N.L. Wilson

(Morecambe)

HERE NEXT

Friday, 26th December, 1980
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC -v-
CREW ALEXANDRA**
Football League Division 4